



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director of Children and Family Services

At its meeting held February 10, 2004, the Board took the following action:

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The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisor Antonovich:

“On February 3, 2004, the office of the Children’s Services Inspector General completed its investigation into the death of Ivan M., a child who had been reported to the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) on six occasions for possible abuse and neglect. The Coroner ruled Ivan’s death a homicide and his mother was arrested for murder and is awaiting trial. The investigation into the death of Ivan M. included a complete review of the case file and several factors indicating that the quality of supervision by DCFS may have contributed to Ivan’s death.”

Therefore, Supervisor Antonovich made a motion that the Board direct the Director of Children and Family Services to:

1. Respond to the report by the Children's Services Inspector General regarding the investigation into the death of Ivan M., a child who had been reported to the Department of Children and Family Services on six occasions for possible abuse and neglect; and
2. Report back to the Board within 14 days with a corrective action plan and recommendations to help prevent similar situations in the future.

Dr. David Sanders, Director of Children and Family Services, Shirley L. Farrior, Warren Williams, Yvonne Michelle Autry, Candace Owen, Anglia McMorris, Genevieve Clavreul, and Merritt Holloway addressed the Board.

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After discussion, Supervisor Molina made a suggestion that Supervisor Antonovich's motion be amended to instruct the Director of Children and Family Services to also include the following in their corrective action plan to be presented in 14 days:

1. Outline involvement of the Supervising Social Worker, Assistant Regional Administrator and Regional Administrator in the review of this case, and recommend disciplinary actions for all of these levels of staff in order to prevent this apparent lack of judgment in the future;
2. If supervisory staff was not aware of the case, how will you institute a checks and balances system or trigger mechanism where such cases may be caught in the future?
3. Outline a plan whereby the Department's Executive Committee directly conducts reviews and interviews on such cases, in order to conduct an independent review outside of the case carrying office; and
4. Please explain how staff judgment issues were handled; include retraining, reviews and recommendations to alert staff to such issues in the future; and include the process followed by Social Workers to determine unfounded abuse findings; and
5. On the Department's follow up on a referral made to the Adult Protective Services on January 6, 2003 with respect to the mother in this case; please include staff disciplinary actions, if appropriate.

Supervisor Antonovich accepted Supervisor Molina's amendment.

Supervisor Antonovich's motion, as amended, seconded by Supervisor Molina, was unanimously carried.

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Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Director of Community and Senior Services